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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,631	07/27/2001	Toshio Hosogai	929	9472

7590

03/13/2002

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EXAMINER

HOEY, ALISSA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,631

Applicant(s)

HOSOGAI, TOSHIO

Examiner

Alissa L. Hoey

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
 3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said first panel zipper flap" and "said second panel zipper flap" in lines 9 and 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
 4. It is further unclear in claim 1, line 13 what is meant by "...whether formed "inside" or "outside"."
 5. It is unclear in claim 2, lines 2 and 6 what is "one flap" and what is "another flap"?
 6. It is unclear in claims 2-4, how the embodiment can contain the following three types of flaps " a zipper flap", "an inner fly flap" and " an outer fly flap".
 7. It is unclear in claim 5, how the method can contain steps a. and b. which attaches a first and second panel to a first and second panel zipper flap by a finished seam. Then contains steps e. and f. which attaches the panels and zipper flaps together by a different finished seam. Why do they need to be attached twice?
- However, as best understood claims have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosogai (US 6,182,296).

Hosogai provides a button flap formed symmetrically about each panel and the attachment strips of the button attach thereto by stitching (figures 1, 3, and 13).

It is well known in the apparel arts to use a zipper in place of buttons, since zippers and buttons are equivalent securing means and therefore interchangeable. It would have been further obvious that the attachment strips of the zipper were attached to the flap by stitching, since most pant garments attach the zipper to the garment panel and flap with stitched seams.

10. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosogai in view of Cook (US 3,962,729).

Hosogai provides a reversible garment as described above in claim 2-4.

However, Hosogai fails to teach a the first panel connected to the first zipper flap and attached by a finished seam and a second panel connected to a second zipper flap and attached by a finished seam. Both inner and outer fly cover flaps attached to the first panel zipper flap by a finished seam. Cook provides the first panel connected to the first zipper flap and attached by a finished seam and a second panel connected to a second

zipper flap and attached by a finished seam (figure 4). An inner fly cover flap and an outer fly cover flap (figures 2 and 4).

It would have been obvious to have provided the reversible garment of Hosogai with the finished seam and attachment of the zipper and flaps of Cook, since the finished attachment of Cook attaching the flap and zipper component to the garment panels creates a hidden zipper fastener and provided on a reversible garment would create a hidden zipper when worn inside or out. With regards to claims 5 and 6, it would have been obvious to have provided the hidden reversible zipper garment of Hosogai and Cook in the same methods as claimed.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Khemka et al. (US 6,243,878), Ackermann (US 3,827,085), Goodale (US 5,628,093), Meserol (US 4,752,971), Best (US 5,566,393), Cirigliano (US 5,653,337), Bayer (US 6,345,393), Croonborg (US 3,278,945), Andrews (US 6,161,223), De Lott (US 4,700,409), Knapp (US 5,204,995), Hosogai (US D 428,548), (US D 430,385) and (US D 439,727) are all cited to show closely related zipper garments.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (703) 308-6094. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) Second Friday Off.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (703) 305-1025. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0758 for regular communications and (703) 308-0758 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

alh
February 28, 2002


GLORIA M. HALE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)

6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.